

Remarks

In the Office action mailed September 15, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-16, and 18-34. The Examiner objected to claims 4 and 17, but indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections of claims 1-3, 5-16, and 18-34. However, in order to expedite prosecution, the foregoing amendments rewrite claims 4 and 17 as suggested by the Examiner. Specifically, amended claim 1 includes the language of original claim 4 and its base claim, original independent claim 1 (with slight revisions to correct a typographical error and informality). Additionally, new claim 35 includes the language of original claim 17 and the language of its base claim, original independent claim 1 (again, with slight revisions to correct a typographical error and informality). The other claims still pending in the application depend from either amended claim 1 or new claim 35.

Therefore, the claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if doing so would in any way expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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